

Special Board Retreat Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners
Hyde County, North Carolina

Thursday June 16, 2016

County Manager Bill Rich called the special Hyde County Board of Commissioners Retreat to order at 10:00 AM on Thursday June 16, 2016 in the Mattamuskeet Outpost lounge.

The following members of the Board of Commissioners were present – Chairman Earl Pugh, Jr., Commissioners Swindell and Tunnell, candidate Tom Pahl, County Manager Bill Rich and Special Assistant County Manager Will Doerfer. Commissioner Ben Simmons arrived at noon.

County Manager Rich introduced the scope and purpose of the Board Retreat and instructed that no votes could be cast and that this meeting was for planning purposes only.

Commissioner Tunnell provided an historical perspective on the Hyde County drainage and flooding issues to Candidate Pahl.

Chairman Pugh and Commissioner Tunnell discussed the amount of crop lost due to the rain this spring. Commissioner Tunnell estimated that approximately three to five million dollars in crops had been lost so far this season.

Commissioner Tunnell questioned whether the County should be looking to D.C. for funding due to the cost and regulations associated with drainage.

Chairman Pugh stated that the Federal regulatory agencies seem to be coordinating better.

It was noted that regulatory agencies have adjusted floodplain measurements that resulted in lots within Dare County being removed from the official floodplain.

County Manager Rich began discussion regarding Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The budget has been between 1.4 and 1.6 million. Desires to maintain that funding level.

Discussion regarding the Ocracoke EMS site and partnership with the Ocracoke Health Clinic. Commissioner Swindell discussed the problems related to Medicaid reimbursements and how that affects funding for Home Health and the Ocracoke Health Center. The group discussed the reasons for relocating EMS on Ocracoke and the next steps for long-term solution for the Ocracoke EMS site.

County Manager Rich began discussion regarding tax collection rates and the possible effects of the tax reevaluation.

Discussion regarding the possible avenues to address the collection rate and the legal fees and issues associated with going through the County attorney rather than the tax office.

Commissioner Tunnell began discussion regarding tourism and how the county needs to improve capitalizing on the natural resources within mainland. Pointed out that it would not necessarily be the County government to take the initial steps. Discussion regarding opportunities to capture more tourism dollars within the county commenced. It was discussed that the Chamber and Swan Days needed to be stronger and that the Mattamuskeet Lodge would help with all of these issues.

Commissioner Swindell stated that one long-term option could be to find private developers to create a resort-like facility in Hyde County that would provide activities for the whole family because currently, most activities are geared towards those who like being outside.

Discussion regarding Ferries commenced to include the fact that Hatteras ferry dock has already been overwhelmed this season. The passenger ferry was discussed and how that would positively affect the Island. Dredging, the long route, and tolling were discussed.

Manager Rich updated the Board members on the negotiations currently underway between the Senate and House.

Manager Rich discussed the Department of Commerce County Profile report. Over 1100 leave the county for work, 480 come into the county to work, and 425 work and live within the county.

Lunch break from 12-12:30

Manager Rich discussed the Board's role as a unit and the election cycle for the Board. There was discussion regarding including diversity in the County boards and committees.

Manager Rich began discussion about Red Wolf program and his meetings in Raleigh.

There was then general discussion regarding succession planning for the County Manager position as well as department heads. Manager Rich discussed plan to create an Assistant County Manager position and make some staff changes within the County office.

Manager Rich stated that he has been approached by Martin and Tyrrell Counties to join their regional Health Board. The group discussed possible consequences of joining a regional agreement. Chairman Pugh pointed out the Tyrrell County is paying more for Health than Hyde. Commissioner Tunnell questioned whether a partnership with Dare County would be beneficial.

Commissioner Simmons stated that there are some potential issues with Hyde Department of Social Services receiving reimbursement from the State due to misappropriation of funds. If the State audits DSS there is potential for County dollars being required to reimburse the State. It was stated that the new DSS director has done a good job with correcting issues.

Chairman Pugh discussed the topic of manager and Board performance. He discussed a School of Government course he had attended and stated that he would like to implement a Board evaluation and manager evaluation by the end of the year.

There was general discussion regarding the Health Director position.

The group discussed raises and issues surrounding merit raises versus cost of living raises and the unique challenges for Hyde County.

Candidate Pahl discussed appointments to Ocracoke boards, including the planning board and Occupancy Tax Board as well as shortcomings of the Ocracoke Development Ordinance.


Meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

William Doerfer, MPA Graduate, Special Assistant to County Manager

Minutes approved on the 5th day of July 2016.

Attest:


Lois Stotesberry, CMC, NCCCC
Hyde County Board of Commissioners


Earl Pugh, Jr.
Chair, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

